Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) An access control system in a network comprising:

at least one load measurement proxy, which probes the network to determine the congestion state of the network;

a bandwidth broker server in communication with the at least one load measurement proxy and correlating the determined congestion state information; and

a bandwidth broker client in communication with the bandwidth broker server and an application, wherein the bandwidth broker client queries the bandwidth broker server based on requirements of the application.

8. (Original) The access control system of claim 7, wherein the requirements of the application include at least two node addresses and a quality of service.

9. (Original) The access control system of claim 7, wherein the requirements of the application include at least one of an application traffic class, a peak bit rate, a packet delay, a delay variation, a packet loss, and a guaranteed bit rate.

10. (Original) The access control system of claim 7, wherein the load measurement proxy continuously probes the network.

11. (Original) The access control system of claim 7, wherein the load measurement proxy probes the network at predefined intervals.

12. (Original) The access control system of claim 7, wherein the load measurement proxy probes the network in response to a network event.

13. (Original) The access control system of claim 7, wherein the load measurement proxy determines the congestion state of the network for each of a plurality of traffic classes.

14. (Original) An access control system in a network comprising:

at least one load measurement proxy, which probes the network to determine the congestion state of the network,

a bandwidth broker server in communication with the at least one load measurement proxy and correlating the determined congestion state information; and

a plurality of bandwidth broker clients in communication with the bandwidth broker server and a respective one of a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of bandwidth broker clients queries the bandwidth broker server based on requirements of the respective one of a plurality of applications.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of access control in a network comprising:

probing the network to determine the congestion state of the network using at least one load measurement proxy;

correlating the determined congestion state information using a bandwidth broker server in communication with the at least one load measurement proxy; and

querying the bandwidth broker server based on requirements of an application using a bandwidth broker client in communication with the bandwidth broker server and the application.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the requirements of the application include at least two node addresses and a quality of service.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the requirements of the application include at least one of an application traffic class, a peak bit rate, a packet delay, a delay variation, a packet loss, and a guaranteed bit rate.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, comprising continuously probing the network using the load measurement proxy.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, comprising probing the network at predefined intervals using the load measurement proxy.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, comprising probing the network in response to a network event using the load measurement proxy.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, comprising determining the congestion state of the network for each of a plurality of traffic classes using the load measurement proxy.